GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1821
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Innovation Level
Anwar Shri Tariq

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether improvement in innovation level is likely to strengthen health, education and agriculture sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y.S. CHOWDHARY)

(a) Yes Madam. Health, education and agriculture are among the priority sectors identified for improvement

(b) The Department of Science & Technology has launched a new programme 'National Initiative for Developing & Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)' last year which covers the entire value chain of innovations starting from idea to commercialization.

To promote innovation focused start-ups some of the key initiatives taken by the government are:

1. National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog is implementing Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) for promoting Incubators and Tinkering Labs.
2. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) have joined hands to promote Research Parks in the country.
3. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in association with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has set up a Rs.10,000 crore Fund to invest in Venture Capital Funds to promote innovations and start-ups.
4. Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Industries has a programme to setup incubators in the Agriculture sector, under the ASPIRE ('A Scheme For Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship') programme.
5. Department of Bio-Technology has a programme to promote incubators in the Bio-tech sector under the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) programme.
6. MHRD has also launched a Smart India Hackathon for involving Engineering students to provide solutions to problems faced by Government Departments.

In short there is a concerted effort by the government to promote innovation for addressing the problems and challenges faced by the country.

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